

THOMAS COUNTY CAT.

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COLBY, KANSAS

THE MOTHER'S VIGIL.

A wakeful night with stealthy tread
O'er weary day had crept,
As near her dying infant's bed
A mother watched and wept.
She saw the dew of death o'erspread
That trow so white and fair,
And bowing down her aching head,
She breathed a fervent prayer:

"O Thou," she cried, "a mother's love
Hast known—a mother's grief—
Hast known from starry heights above,
And send my heart relief.
Sweet lips that smile are drawn in pain,
Yet rest his life may keep
And give him to my arms again:
Oh, let my baby sleep!"

When sickly dawn a gleam had cast
Of light on night's black pall,
Through gates of Heaven in mercy past
An answer to her call.
On somber wings through gloomy skies,
Death's angel darkly sped—
He softly kissed those troubled eyes,
And lo! the infant slept.
—*Little Country, in Chambers' Journal.*

LAND FISH.

Queer Creatures Which Were
Thought to Be Extinct.

Not very long ago a party of surveyors started out from Melbourne, under orders from the Home Government, to survey a certain tract of the Australian continent, that had hitherto been considered almost inaccessible. One evening, the weary explorers found themselves on the banks of a small river that was lost in a low marsh, and here camp was formed, and all the members of the party were soon asleep. In the middle of the night, one of them, a naturalist, suddenly found himself sitting up in bed, and a second later, came a repetition of the sound that had awakened him, followed by a curious gurgle. Not wishing to disturb his sleeping companions, the naturalist seized his rifle, crept out of the tent, and started in the direction of the curious sound, that now rose on the night air with striking distinctness. For a thousand yards or so he pushed on through the bushes that lined the river bank, following the sound. Soon the bushes gave way to thick grass and to swamp-land, and as the traveler approached it, the curious sound seemed to come up almost at his feet, followed by a splash, as if some gigantic frog had belched and made a leap, affrighted at its own voice.

Holding his rifle in readiness, the naturalist soon made out in the moonlight a shining body, about six feet in length, that seemed to give out a pale, phosphorescent light, and it rested partly submerged in the swamp. It looked too bulky and large for a snake, and a frog of such proportions was not to be thought of. Stepping forward to solve the problem, he broke a twig under his feet, whereupon the great object gave a bellow, and floundered off with clumsy leaps. The hunter dashed after the retreating animal, rushing through the thick grass and sinking into the mud and water, until finally seeing that the creature was making for the river proper, the naturalist fired a shot and wounded the animal. It stopped and struggled violently, lashing the rushes and hurling the mud over its pursuer. In a few moments its struggles ceased, and to the hunter's amazement, he found that he had shot a great fish, a fish that came out of the water, roared like a calf, and walked or scrambled along on partly dry land.

Here was a curiosity indeed! Seizing the prize by the gills, the naturalist lost no time in dragging it back to camp—an object of wonder and curiosity to his companions. It proved to be the now famous *Ceratodus*, a fish that lived in the Jurassic time of geology, and up to 1876 was supposed to have become extinct. In appearance it resembles a great worm, having a small, pointed, snake-like head and no tail; the body ending in a pointed fin or frill, and covered with large, stout scales. The fins are four in number, and in their arrangement call to mind the feet of other animals; and, as we have seen, they are used in a similar manner.

But how, our readers will ask, can a fish live out of water? and in explanation of such an unfishlike operation, we find that the *Ceratodus* can breathe by its gills under water, like other fishes, but if the water becomes muddy or impure, it leaves it and crawls along the swamps and flats, feeding like a land animal. To accomplish this there must be a complete alteration in the circulation of the blood, as when breathing by its gills under the water the blood is sent to them to be freshened or aerated. When the fish leaves the water the gills lose their function for the time. The air-bladder acts as a lung, and becomes filled with air. To this the blood now goes for the refreshing process. When the *Ceratodus* first rises, the air-bladder is full of gas, and in forcing it out and swallowing fresh air, it makes the bellowing sound that first attracted the attention of the naturalist to it. The surveyors saw many of these great fishes during their visit to that part of the country, observing them leave what seemed to be their native element at night and wander away, evidently in search of food.

The South American and African mud-fishes are quite similar in their habits. They live in streams when the water dries up in the hot season, and were it not for some such provision, they would soon become extinct. When the weather gives signs of failing, they descend into the mud, and encasing themselves in balls lined with some secretion, patiently await the coming of the waters again. For months they exist in this fashion, hermetically sealed up, as it were, and in some cases in Africa they have been deprived of water for two seasons.

A party of travelers once encamped over such a dried-up pond in Africa, that gave little evidence of ever having held water. Soon after a terrific rain-storm came on, filling the place so that they were obliged to move to a higher location. One of the men returning,

however, for some reason, in wading to the site of the camp found, to his amazement, that the water was alive with fishes. Opinion was divided as to their origin; part of the men thought it was a case of spontaneous generation, while the majority felt positive that they had rained down. The truth was, that the rain had soaked into the imprisoned mud-fishes, releasing them from their baked cells, and surrounding them once more with water.

The air-bladders of these fishes are divided into compartments, and have all the requisites of a true lung, and they are as truly amphibians as the frogs and toads. Other amphibians have different methods of withstanding the drouth. Thus the Hasser, when the water begins to dry up in the pools and streams, does not encase itself in a mud ball, but leaves the heated and fast-disappearing liquid, and starts overland in search of a better supply.

On the coast of China, and in various other localities, is found a fish that is so lively on dry land that it is as difficult to capture as a frog or toad, leaping along the rocks from stone to stone, and where it is particularly slippery, avoiding its human pursuers. This fish, which is one of the Gobies, obtains a greater part of its food upon the beach, being particularly fond of a curious, soft, slug-like mollusk called the *Onchidium*, that is not only supplied with two eyes, but eye-spots over its entire upper surface.

The Goby, with its prominent eyes, goes hopping along, looking for this delicate morsel, and this curious sight suggested to a fisherman the possibility of fishing on dry land. Taking a rod and line, he stationed himself behind a rock upon the shore, and at low tide was repaid by observing numbers of the curious fishes leave the water and crawl upon the sand. The hook, having been baited with their favorite morsel, was carefully dropped among them, and then ensued a remarkable scene. The fish darted at it as a bull does at a red rag, jumping eight or ten inches at a leap. Soon one of the largest was hooked, and, flying through the air, was secured by the fisherman, who, in this novel way, captured a number of them.

Eels, Killis fishes, and several others are known to leave the water in our own country, but the strangest cases are those living in the equatorial regions.—*C. F. Holder, in Youth's Companion.*

A GOOD VOICE.

The Greatest Gift of the Lecturer, Orator and Political Speaker.

A foreigner, after hearing Mr. Gladstone in the House of Commons, said: "I had never thought that the English language was musical, but I am now convinced that it is one of the most melodious of living tongues." The foreigner's confession illustrates the importance of a good voice to an orator. In fact, no one of his physical gifts is more important. He must conquer by speech, and that speech is the most effective, other things being equal, whose tones interest, please, soothe or rouse an audience. If public speakers would take half the pains to improve their voices that actors and singers do, they would find that labor can make even an ordinary voice an effective instrument. One of the greatest of singers Madame Malbran, used to labor for hours to acquire notes which she lacked. She sang, one day, at a concert, the rondo in "Sonambula," and ended with a very high trill, so that her vocalism embraced three octaves. "Oh," was her reply to a friend, who expressed his admiration of the trill. "I have sought for it long enough. For three months I have been running after it. I have pursued it everywhere while arranging my hair, while dressing. One morning I found it in the bottom of my shoes, as I was putting them on."

Macready, the actor, was heard one morning, while stopping at a Boston hotel, crying murder for two hours or more. He was painfully seeking for the one intonation which would produce the effect he wished.

Even school-boys have ceased to be moved by the sight of Demosthenes speaking with his mouth full of pebbles, running up hill while reciting, and declaiming to the noisy waves. But though old, the illustration makes it clear that a stammering, weak, sensitive voice may be made an effective organ of public speech by hard drilling.

Of course, there are orators who triumph in spite of an unfriendly voice. Shiel, the Irish orator, had a voice which resembled the noise emitted by beating a tin pan. He shrieked out the most thrilling passages, and held senates and assemblies in spite of a dwarfish body and a squeaking voice. But if mind does sometimes conquer matter, that is no reason for refusing brain matter so that it will help instead of opposing mind.—*Youth's Companion.*

Strangling an Elephant.

A Hamburg newspaper gives the following account of a curious and exceptional incident which occurred in that city. For some time past one of the large elephants, brought over by some Cingalese, had showed signs of furious delirium, and it was at length decided to kill the animal, which was valued at 12,000 francs. An Englishman had once offered to give 1,000 marks, if the occasion presented itself, for the privilege of shooting the enraged beast. The sportsman was thereupon summoned by telegraph; but in the presence of the raging animal he became frightened, and gave up the intention of bringing it down with a shot. Chains were passed around the neck of the elephant, which had been bound, and the two ends of the chains were drawn tightly by means of tackle. Ten minutes afterward the colossal creature had ceased to live.—*N. Y. Post.*

—Sheepkilling on the railroad track is becoming a popular sport. The last exploit was that of an engineer running a train near Reno, who killed forty animals out of a possible seven hundred.—*Virginia City (Nev.) Chronicle.*

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE.

Why a Dakota Editor Gratefully, But Emphatically, Declines Political Preference.

A friend came to us recently and asked if we would accept the nomination for justice of the peace if it was tendered. We felt flattered and have taken up more room on the sidewalk since. We saw that we were appreciated, but nevertheless felt called upon to refuse because we really had no suitable place to keep the nomination and knew we could not get it any way.

We were never drawn into the whirl of political excitement but once. A year ago last fall during a long and particularly vigorous campaign we were found mixing in the hottest of the fight with our name on the ticket for one of the important offices. It was the position of coroner. Some time before election a few warm friends ably seconded by some of our worst enemies placed our name on about two thirds of the tickets, with fatal results.

The canvass made against us was remarkable for bitterness, no money or means being spared to bring about our defeat. While we stood here in the office at the ghostly hour of midnight setting up solid breviter editorials on the situation our opponent tramped around his open barrel with a wide shingle shoveling out great piles of coin. Our past record was raked up and truths told about us which we never supposed any one in this part of the country knew. All to no avail, however, as we had the unspeakable pleasure of snowing our unscrupulous opponent under to the tune of forty-five majority.

As the smoke of battle drifted away we began to look up the pay a good all-around coroner who was not afraid to work up business usually got. We found that the coroner was paid wholly by fees, that he could expect nothing from a heartless Government until he should sit on a case and bring in a verdict that "we find the deceased" came to his death from causes unknown to this jury." Then we turned hungrily and expectantly to the records. There we found that although the county had been organized several years a death had never yet occurred in it. This was discouraging.

A glance at the future was equally disheartening. As far as we could see there was not a man in the county with anything about him to indicate that he would crawl off in some shady spot and die alone, or even that he would playfully pump his neighbor full of lead. The community appeared to be against the honest, hard-working coroner.

When we saw how matters stood we went before the Board of County Commissioners and said: "Gentlemen, there seems to be no encouragement for the coroner, no kind word for him, there is nothing to stimulate a young and ambitious coroner anxious to rise in the world and sit on a member of the Legislature or circuit judge, nothing to lead him to believe that his efforts are appreciated, therefore you may have our resignation if you want it." The head commissioner said that while they had no personal use for it that nevertheless they would take it. So we passed it over and they appointed the rival we had buried so deeply at the polls.

Since this experience we have rather shunned than sought political preferment, we have been content to rub our fingers over a piece of chalk and stand at the case setting up local items by ear and deep-laid editorials with only a suggestion of copy platted on the blank side of a wrapper snatched ruthlessly from the person of a quarto exchange.—*Edeline (D. T.) Bell.*

AUSTRO-HUNGARY.

Wage-Workers Recompensed at Starvation Rates Throughout the Empire.

Consul-General Jussen, at Vienna, sends to the Department of State an interesting report upon the trade and industries of Austria-Hungary, and the condition and habits of its people. A considerable portion of the report deals with the political and social features of the empire. Mr. Jussen says: "There is not another political domain in Europe which unites under the same sceptre so many different tribes, races and nationalities, divided and estranged from each other by habits, language and traditions, as that confided to the care of the House of Hapsburg. The empire contains 22,000,000 of people, speaking no less than ten different languages. Naturally enough it is impossible to find, outside of the Government and its ramifications, a single political party or faction whose members style themselves Austrians. On the contrary, they insist that they are either Germans, Austrians, Bohemians, Tyrolese, Poles, Italians or any thing, in fact, but Austrians. All this, of course, seriously impedes the development of trade, industry and the commercial as well as the political progress of the people. The Austrian Government has little sympathy with the American nation, and dreads its rapid progress upon the fields of industry and commerce. But this dislike and contempt rarely finds expression in unmistakable terms. The public press simply ignores the United States, and the consequent ignorance of the majority of the people regarding this country is very great. It is obvious that most of the Austrians never heard of the downfall of the Confederacy, inasmuch as Confederate bills of exchange are repeatedly presented at the Consulate for exchange into current Austrian funds. The Austrian press print no news from this country except such as will have a discouraging influence upon emigration; such, for example, as atrocious murders, confagurations, cyclones and strikes of laborers. The massacre of a frontier settlement by a band of Apaches is a God-send to the Vienna press, which publishes the news with its horrible details under display headings, and the impression is given that such scenes are of the most frequent and widespread character.

The condition of the laboring classes can not be termed satisfactory, even from a European standpoint. The reward of labor is divided in the reverse

proportion to the amount of labor actually performed, the greater portion being reaped by those who never labor at all, while the most trying and exhaustive manual labor can not always rely with certainty even upon the most indispensable necessities of life as a recompense for unremitting toil. In the district of Vienna the workers in machine shops and factories are huddled together in close, ill-ventilated rooms, where the stench is usually unbearable. The average rate of wages for males is \$3.25 per week, and for females, \$1.85 per week. The highest rate of wages paid in Vienna is earned by those engaged in the machine industry, where the average is \$4.40 a week. The lowest rate of wages received by the workers in any single industry is paid to those engaged in the textile industry, who receive an average of \$2.40 per week. The hours in all branches of trade are not less than twelve. All the necessities of life, except clothing, are quite as dear in Vienna as in the larger cities of the United States. Ham and petroleum are three times as dear as in America.

Mr. Jussen says that the working-men who live in hired apartments, and the exceptions are few where they own a home) pay fully one-third of their wages for rent, the accommodations being in many instances unfit for human beings. One instance cited by Mr. Jussen is that of thirteen laborers, male and female, who lived in the garret of a small house, twelve paces long by eight paces wide. An old man who made his quarters in a remote corner of the room among the rubbish paid for this privilege forty-four cents a week.

Mr. Jussen appends a touching account of the miseries of the nail-smiths in the district of Corinthia, taken from the report of one of the imperial-royal inspectors. In the town of Kroppa are 320 smiths, together with 120 women and children, who work at this trade. The nails are made by hand. Everybody works, including the children from eight years and upward. The smith commences work at three o'clock in the morning, and labors with but two hours' intermission, until seven at night. It is only the more skillful workman who can earn from \$1.12 to \$1.85 a week. The others earn from seventy-five cents to \$1.50 a week. Out of these scanty wages the smith furnishes his own charcoal. His food consists of a dough made of flour and water swimming in grease. Meat is a luxury in which he indulges only on holidays. The report adds that consumption and heart-disease are very prevalent among them, their average life seldom exceeding forty years.—*Washington Letter.*

THE PALLIUM.

All About the Insignia of Archiepiscopal Authority in the Catholic Church.

The large painting in the nave of the subterranean church represents St. Peter installing St. Clement and investing him with the pallium, the symbol of universal jurisdiction. It may be said, en passant, that a Cardinal who is not an Archbishop can not wear it. One of the first ceremonies after a Cardinal is elected to the papal chair, although he may be a Cardinal-Bishop, is to invest him with the pallium. St. Clement became Pope in A. D. 67. St. Clement in the painting is facing the people, as a priest, does when he says "Dominus Vobiscum." His pallium is almost the same as the new one now in use, with the slight difference that the ancient one is longer. It extends from the shoulders down in front of the body, to an inch or two below the knees. The pallium now used does not go below the breast. It is made of white wool, dotted with black crosses, fastened by golden pins, studded with precious stones, and is about the width of an ordinary suspender. It is put on over the head; the end hangs on the heart over the clavicle. When the Pope says mass in St. Peter's it is the ninth article of his vestments which he puts on.

When the person to be invested is not at Rome, the pallium is sent by a trusted messenger, always an ecclesiastic, who, for the time being, is commissioned the Pope's messenger, and who is bound to be received as such wherever he may tarry, to receive all kinds of spiritual aid and comfort, and no one, under severe censure, is to hinder or delay him in his journey. He delivers the packet containing the pallium to the person designated by the Cardinal Prefect of the Propaganda to receive it and to no one else. He is not relieved of his responsibility until the act of investiture is concluded. He is a guest at the ceremony, and occupies a place of honor throughout, because he is the Pope's messenger. He is generally the recipient of some valuable present from the invested prelate, who is bound forthwith to report the day of his investiture, the name of the messenger, and of the prelate who placed the pallium upon his shoulders, etc. The latter is invariably some Bishop named at Rome.

The pallium is only worn on solemn occasions, as Christmas, Easter Sunday, etc. When the prelate dies upon whom it has been vested it is buried with him, resting upon his shoulders, and pendant upon his breast as in life. The first Archbishop, the late Dr. Hughes, of this city, received the pallium from the hands of the late Pius IX, in 1859, at Rome. Cardinal McCloskey was invested in 1864, in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Mulberry street. To understand how important the pallium is we must bear in mind that, unlike the bull nominating a priest to be a Bishop, which is often sent by mail, the pallium must be and always is carried by a messenger. It is true that bulls are sent by messengers when opportunity, but many of them are transmitted by mail to the metropolitan of the archdiocese wherein the inchoate Bishop resides. It will be observed that the number of Archbishops is quite small throughout the world. There are only twelve in the United States, one in England, four in Ireland and one in Scotland. It is a very impressive ceremony, but of course not to be compared in length to that of a consecration, yet the conferring of the pallium always has been held in profound veneration because it is, as a whole, the highest step one can attain in the Church.—*N. Y. Herald.*

COMPLETE FOODS.

Out Fodder and Ground Grain the Best Aids to Digestion.

The preparation of the food should be considered with the choice of it, because digestion depends very much upon the way the food is presented to the stomach and the digestive fluids in it. A hard solid mass presents a very small surface to the action of the gastric fluid, but if it is divided up into small particles with superficies is very much increased, with a proportionate increase in the solvent action of the digestive fluid. If a calf swallows a mess of milk too rapidly and it is coagulated in a mass in the stomach the animal suffers from indigestion, but if the milk is sucked or drank slowly and becomes properly mixed with the saliva, it forms a soft, porous, spongy mass in the stomach through which the gastric fluid finds its way easily, and soon reduces it to solution. It is the same with solid food. Grain fed whole presents a hard surface and a small area as compared with the fine meal into which it may be ground, and the latter is therefore far more digestible than the former. This is the common experience and needs no attempt to prove it.

With coarse fodders, as straw, corn-stalks, or even hay, the same principles apply. But there is an additional reason for the proper preparation of these coarser foods. No farmer who has intelligence enough to attempt to feed cattle for profit would think of confining his stock to these coarse foods alone. He knows the more concentrated and richer nutriment of grain is needed to make the flesh and fat required. But yet many do not understand the necessity for the proper mingling of the food to make it fully digestible and to extract all the nutriment possible from it. The "roughness" is fed by itself and the grain is given by itself. The consequence is the mass of coarse food is not helped by the more nutritious grain, and this concentrated food is not helped by the bulky and more porous fodder, and so both are wasted for want of the mutual help of one to the other.

This is so much worse when coarse fodder and whole grain are fed, as are seen in the large waste of grain which escapes undigested even from horses kept in what is supposed to be the best manner. This waste is often equal to one-half of the food. The writer was once feeding twelve horses and eight working oxen, and the consumption of food was equal to four hundred pounds of hay and ten bushels of mixed corn and oats per day. By procuring a fodder cutter and a mill and cutting the hay and grinding the grain finely, and feeding the two together intimately mixed, the consumption fell off at once to two hundred and fifty pounds of hay and six bushels of grain daily, and the stock improved rapidly in health and condition. Not one case of colic or any other disease appeared, although previously there were more or less trouble and disturbance nearly every night with two or more horses, and very often a horse unable to work. This caused a considerable loss, in addition to the waste of feed. This same experience has forced those who use many horses, and every dairyman as well, to use the cut fodder and ground grain well mixed, and this practice is now universal over the civilized world. Indeed some large feeders even grind the hay and straw, so as to insure the most complete digestion that is possible.

It is well to consider the reasons for this, so as to fix the facts more strongly on the mind. Digestion is a fermentative, solvent process set in action by the gastric fluid, which exudes copiously from the coats of the stomach when the entrance of food excites these to action. The fluid can only cause this solvent action by contact with the particles of the food, and, as time is an important element of its action, if the food is not retained long enough in the stomach to effect the conversion of the soluble matter of it into available form, it passes off into the bowels in a still crude state and a considerable portion of it is finally ejected as waste. The addition of the coarse fodder, finely cut up into chaff, to the more nutritious meal not only excites the stomach to exude its gastric fluid copiously, but it forms a spongy, porous mass which breaks apart in the fluid and forms a pulp through which the digestive process is immediately exerted. Digestion is rapid and complete and no part of the food is wasted, the wholly insoluble portion only being ejected through the intestines. Thus a much smaller quantity of food is sufficient to supply the demands of the animal, and as the disposal of this is easier than that of a larger quantity, some saving is also made in the vital force expended in the digestive process. Moreover, the action of digestion is contagious, so to speak, and a portion of the food digested aids in the digestion of other portions, just as leavened paste communicates the peculiar action of the leaven to other paste, and acts precisely as the original leaven. Thus the more digestible meal, rich in starch and gluten, greatly assists in the digestion of the cellulose of the coarser fodder, converting it into starch and then sugar by the action of the ferment produced in it by the gastric food.—*N. Y. Times.*

—The very sweetest orange and the richest is the black or rusty-coated fruit. Pick out the dingiest oranges in the box and you will get the best. Another way to choose oranges is by weight. The heaviest are the best, because they have the thinnest skin and more weight of juice. Thick skin oranges are apt to be dry; they either weigh less because of having so much skin or because of the poverty of the juice in these particular specimens.—*Cincinnati Times.*

—If, all of a sudden, every body's sinful acts and thoughts were to be exposed to public view by the glare of the electric light, how even some good people would astonish each other, and what a universal blush would creep over the face of humanity! It would be a cruel thing to do, but would serve some folks just right.—*Chicago Sun.*

NEW YORK FASHIONS.

Favorite Materials in Spring Styles—The Latest Importations.

Among the latest importations are Indian cashmeres in delicate neutral tints such as beige, doe or fawn color, having borders of bright colored silk and golden threads in oriental devices. These dresses are very elegant and are intended chiefly for afternoon teas and informal home receptions.

In spring dresses, corn color, green, primrose, amber, pearl-gray, dove and silver-gray, as well as brown and blue in all shades, are among the prevailing colors. In pinks and in Persian mauve there are some beautiful tints to be used, either as combinations with black or white-lace or as colored slips under lace dresses.

Favorite materials are soft Ottoman silks and Irish poplins, surah, cashmere and rigogue, while in lighter styles, brocade, stained and grenadines in new and beautiful patterns are imported for evening dresses for young ladies. Pearl and colored beads are employed to outline the designs in these costly fabrics. Flowers, either in the natural colors or embroidered in beads are favorite ideas.

Some dinner dresses recently brought from Paris have panels formed entirely of bead open-work over kiltings of satin. The bodices of these very stylish costumes have vests of similar bead-work also displayed over-kilted satin.

Polonaises are now adapted for evening wear. The corsages are cut low both in back and front, and filled in with silk mull or beaded tulle. Some ladies have the light material arranged somewhat as an independent vest and the folds fastened to a belt at the waist, that they may not become disarranged. The polonaise skirt is as long as the under-dress, and is slashed to the waist at the sides to show a handsome skirt beneath. The drapery in the back is disposed in one large box-pleat, with folds on each side, and flows gracefully, without looping, to the floor.

Light summer hats are faced inside with garnet velvet or crimson satin, and these linings can be dotted with beads of color to suit. The crowns of Spanish hats are not so high, and turbans of several styles are more in favor than they have been. The crowns of the latter are covered with bead network. There is a large importation of "craws," among which the Dunstable and Milan braids are the most popular. There are also beautiful lace mock straw and netted straws of Princess shape, lined with satin of delicate colors.—*N. Y. Cor. Detroit Tribune.*

WHEN TO PRUNE.

What to Do With Superfluous Shoots on Apple Trees.

"When is the best time to prune apple trees?" There is much difference of opinion, even among skillful orchardists, on some points relating to pruning. Most of them agree, however, that pruning for symmetry, or to promote the vigor of the tree, is best done in spring, before the buds begin to swell. Pruning should not only be done at the right time, but also in the right way. There is much butchery committed in orchards, under the name of pruning. If trees are kept in shape from the first, there will be no excuse for cutting off large branches. A leading orchardist once remarked that there were only fifty-two days in the year in which he did not prune his trees—they were Sundays. He was continually looking out for superfluous shoots during the growing season, and pinched them off as they appeared. This little to do with saw and pruning-knife, and that little was done early in spring. Whenever a branch is cut off, the wound should be at once covered with a thin coat of varnish, made by dissolving shellac in alcohol.

Cutting away limbs or even twigs, during the growing season, while the tree is in full leaf, checks its vigor. This is sometimes desirable, to promote fruitfulness. When an apple tree "runs to wood" too much, a little judicious summer pruning checks the excessive growth of wood, and directs the energies of the tree to the formation of fruit buds. To recapitulate: 1. Keep down water-sprouts and superfluous shoots by pinching them back, as they start. 2. Cut out small interfering branches early in spring, before growth begins, covering the wounds with shellac. 3. To check excessive growth of wood, prune moderately and judiciously in the summer.—*Prairie Farmer.*

A MID-AIR FIGHT.

Fierce Encounter Between Two Workmen Seventy-five Feet from the Ground.

An exciting scene was witnessed by pedestrians passing Marshall Field's new building, on the corner of Fifth avenue and Adams street the other morning. Two workmen were engaged in adjusting some of the guy-ropes of the tall derricks used in putting in foundation-stones, perched upon a small platform eight by ten feet in size, about seventy-five feet from the ground. Suddenly one rushed to the other and felled him with a blow from his fist. He then began to kick the prostrate man, who, after a brief struggle, managed to gain his feet, and, seizing a hammer near him, he aimed a crushing blow at his assailant's head. The blow fell short, and then began a scene that sent a chill down every spectator's back. The man with a hammer was seen to be wild with rage, and as the other stepped back out of reach of the weapon he made a dash for him again, and the first assailant turned and ran. Round and round the little platform went the couple, the frail support cracking and trembling under the heavy tread of the combatants. At last the hunted man stopped, and turning quickly, grappled with his pursuer. The men wrestled fiercely for possession of the hammer, and the spectators expected at any moment to see one or both fall off the platform and be dashed to fragments on the stone piers beneath them. While thus fighting in mid-air a third man mounted to the spot and parted them. The cause of the battle is unknown, but it was a terrific spectacle while it lasted.—*Chicago Tribune.*